

Message Text

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TAGS: CG, PFOR, US

SUBJECT: TRANSLATED TEXT OF LETTER FROM ZAIRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER
TO AMBASSADOR HINTON CONCERNING PEACE CORPS/ZAIRE
DATED JANUARY 29, 1975

REF: KINSHASA 863

1. "MR AMBASSADOR: I HAVE THE HONOR TO REMIND YOU THAT BECAUSE OF THE VERY GOOD OFFICIAL RELATIONS YOUR PREDECESSOR, AMBASSADOR SHELDON B. VANCE, WAS ABLE TO ESTABLISH WITH THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AND PARTICULARLY WITH THE FOUNDER PRESIDENT OF THE POPULAR MOVEMENT OF THE REVOLUTION AND PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAIRE, CITIZEN MOBUTU SESE SEKO, THE LATTER PERSONALLY INVITED THE PEACE CORPS TO SEND A TEAM OF ITS MEMBERS TO OUR COUNTRY.
2. "THE WORK DONE IN ZAIRE UNTIL FAIRLY RECENTLY BY THE AMERICAN MEMBERS OF THE PEACE CORPS WAS THOROUGHLY APPRECIATED BY OUR PEOPLE AND OUR OFFICIALS.
3. "HOWEVER, SINCE EXACTLY THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 1974, WHILE OUR CHIEF OF STATE WAS ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, AND THEN SUBSEQUENTLY FOLLOWING THE LAST MEASURES TO RADICALIZE OUR REVOLUTION DECIDED UPON BY THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE POPULAR MOVEMENT OF THE REVOLUTION, CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE PEACE CORPS WORKING IN KIVU HAVE

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AN ATTITUDE WHICH BEARS WITNESS TO THEIR FLAGRANT INTERFERENCE IN

THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAIRE.

4. "CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE PEACE CORPS HAVE MADE IT KNOWN TO OUR OFFICIALS THAT WITH THE NEW SITUATION CURRENTLY PREVAILING IN ZAIRE, THEIR CONSCIENCES AS CATHOLICS AND AS CHRISTIANS OBLIGE THEM TO LEAVE OUR COUNTRY. THEY SAY THAT THEY PREFER TO OFFER THEIR SERVICES TO THE COUNTRIES OF THE SAHEL. SOME OF THEM EVEN INFORMED OUR OFFICIALS THAT THEY WERE READY TO LEAVE ZAIRE AND HAVE ALREADY PACKED THEIR BAGS.

5. "SINCE, ON THE ONE HAND, THE ATTITUDE OF THESE MEMBERS OF THE PEACE CORPS ESTABLISHED IN KIVU CREATES A RISK OF UNNECESSARY INCIDENTS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, AND ON THE OTHER HAND, YOUR EXCELLENCY HAS NOT KEPT US INFORMED OF THIS DANGEROUS STATE OF MIND DISPLAYED BY CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE PEACE CORPS, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS DECIDED TO TERMINATE THEIR STAY IN ZAIRE.

6. "THUS, WE REQUEST YOUR EXCELLENCY TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES SO THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE PEACE CORPS WHO ARE PRESENTLY WORKING IN KIVU LEAVE THE REPUBLIC OF ZAIRE AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE."

7. "WE TAKE THIS OCCASION TO INFORM YOU THAT THE FOUNDER PRESIDENT OF THE POPULAR MOVEMENT OF THE REVOLUTION AND PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAIRE, CITIZEN MOBUTU SESE SEKO, WHO GREATLY APPRECIATES THE WORK DONE BY THE MEMBERS OF THE PEACE CORPS IN ZAIRE, WISHES TO EXPRESS TO THEM PERSONALLY HIS FEELING OF GRATITUDE AND TO THANK THEM IN THE NAME OF THE ZAIRIAN PEOPLE.

8. " WE ALSO TAKE THIS OCCASION TO ASK YOU TO INFORM THE OFFICIALS OF THE PEACE CORPS THAT THEY ARE PERSONAL GUESTS OF THE CHIEF OF STATE AT MOUNT NGALIEMA ON A DATE WHICH WILL BE FIXED IN THE COMING DAYS.

9. "IN ADDITION, WE WISH TO INFORM YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT THE FOUNDER PRESIDENT OF THE POPULAR MOVEMENT OF THE REVOLUTION AND PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAIRE WILL WRITE A PERSONAL LETTER VERY SOON TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, MR. GERALD FORD, THANKING YOUR COUNTRY FOR THE IMPORTANT AID IT HAS FURNISHED TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAIRE BY SENDING IT MEMBERS OF THE PEACE CORPS.
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10. "THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DOES NOT WISH TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT ABOUT THIS MATTER, AND IS COUNTING ON YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND YOUR GOODWILL SO THAT EVERYTHING TAKES PLACE WITH CALM AND DIGNITY.

11. "IN THE HOPE THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND THE STRENGTHENING OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN

OUR TWO COUNTRIES, I BEG YOU TO ACCEPT, MR. AMBASSADOR, MY
BEST WISHES.

SIGNED: STATE COMMISSIONER MANDUNGU BULA NYATI."
HINTON

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